

Top **5** Arms Exporters to Saudi Arabia 2014 -2018

What does a cholera outbreak in Yemen have to do with the effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)?

Everything.

With more than 1.3 million reported cases, the outbreak is just one manifestation of the catastrophic humanitarian crisis that has been inflicted upon Yemen by a Saudi-led military coalition since 2015. A UN panel has denounced “widespread and systematic” attacks on civilian targets in the impoverished country.

The key factor that has enabled and sustained this crisis? The unscrupulous and irresponsible transfer of weapons to Saudi Arabia, despite the risk that they could be used to undermine peace and security, and to violate human rights and International Humanitarian Law.

The Arms Trade Treaty prohibits precisely such exports for states parties. And treaty signatories who have not yet ratified are obligated to refrain, in good faith, from acts that would defeat the object and the purpose of the treaty. Yet there has been a steady flow of weapons to Saudi Arabia and its coalition partners from major arms exporters since the start of the Yemeni conflict.

Following are the **top five arms exporters to Saudi Arabia** in the 2014-2018 period.

1

UNITED STATES



Total value of exports 2014-2018: 11.5 billion USD

ATT Status: Signatory

Weapons exported include: military and surveillance aircraft, tanks, ammunition, laser-guided missiles

Diversion of weapons from intended end use(r): YES

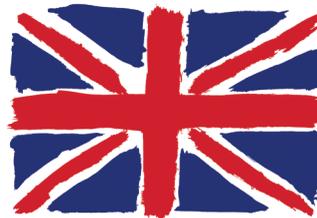
Risk of weapons use in IHL violations by the Saudi-led coalition: HIGH

Arms exports as of August 2019: ONGOING

2

2

UNITED KINGDOM



Total value of exports 2014-2018: 2.7 billion USD

ATT Status: State Party

Weapons exported include: military and surveillance aircraft, ammunition, armoured vehicles, precision-guided bombs

Diversion of weapons from intended end use(r): YES

Risk of weapons use in IHL violations by the Saudi-led coalition: HIGH

Arms exports as of August 2019: ONGOING

Since the beginning of hostilities, hospitals operated by Médecins Sans Frontières have been targeted by coalition airstrikes, despite continued communication of their location and operation to the Royal Saudi Air Force. The targeting of medical facilities constitutes a war crime.

The Armed Conflict Location and Event Data project (ACLED) reported in June 2019 that the Yemen War death toll had exceeded 91,000. At least 11,700 civilians were directly targeted. The UN estimates that 80% of Yemeni civilians are in need of humanitarian assistance, with nearly 20 million lacking access to adequate healthcare.

3

CANADA



Total value of exports 2014-2018: 1.7 billion USD

ATT Status: State Party as of Sept. 17, 2019

Weapons exported include: armoured vehicles, ammunition, small arms and light weapons

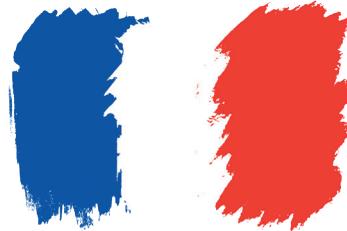
Diversion of weapons from intended end use(r): YES

Risk of weapons use in IHL violations by the Saudi-led coalition: HIGH

Arms exports as of August 2019: ONGOING

4

FRANCE



Total value of exports 2014-2018: 733 million USD

ATT Status: State Party

Weapons exported include: naval vessels, military aircraft, tanks, artillery, ammunition

Diversion of weapons from intended end use(r): YES

Risk of weapons use in IHL violations by the Saudi-led coalition: HIGH

Arms exports as of August 2019: ONGOING

In a span of just nine days in August 2018, more than 500 people were killed in Yemen. Between the beginning of the war and March 2019, the Saudi-led coalition conducted at least 19,000 airstrikes. At least a third were directed at non-military targets.

Save the Children has estimated that approximately 85,000 Yemeni children have died of starvation due to conflict-related food insecurity. The Saudi-led coalition has used explosive weapons to target food production and distribution.

5 SPAIN



Total value of exports 2014-2018: 391 million USD

ATT Status: State Party

Weapons exported include: refueling aircraft, ammunition, laser-guided missiles

Diversion of weapons from intended end use(r): YES

Risk of weapons use in IHL violations by the Saudi-led coalition: HIGH

Arms exports as of August 2019: ONGOING

Saudi Arabia doesn't just use foreign weapons on foreign soil. In 2016, video surfaced of Saudi security forces utilizing Canadian-bought LAVs to crush protests in the Kingdom's Eastern Province. Similarly, Saudi-bought LAVs have seen the same use in allied Bahrain, indicating diverted weapons.

Sources: Global Affairs Canada, SIPRI, Amnesty International, UNHCR, UNODA, Médecins Sans Frontières, Control Arms, Save the Children, *The Guardian*, France24, *El País*, Al Jazeera, *Deutsche Welle*, CBC News.



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August 2019